DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 258 079 CG 018 281

TITLE A Study of Children's Attitudes and Perceptions about Drugs and Alcohol.
INSTITUTION Weekly Reader Publications, Middletown, CT.
PUB DATE 83
NOTE 45p.; Tables may not reproduce well because of broken type. Best copy available.
PUB TYPE Statistical Data (110) -- Reports - Research/Technical (143)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC02 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Adolescents; Alcoholic Beverages; Children; *Drinking; *Drug Use; Elementary Secondary Education; Marihuana; *Peer Influence; Perception; *Rural Urban Differences; *Sex Differences; *Student Attitudes
IDENTIFIERS Opinion Polls

ABSTRACT

The problems of drug and alcohol use among young people has caused concern for many years. A survey of students' attitudes concerning drugs and alcohol use was conducted by the classroom publication "Weekly Reader." Students in grades 4 through 12 responded to the poll, and a random sample of 101,000 responses was analyzed. The results of the poll showed that in grades four and five, children reported learning about the dangers of drugs and drinking from family and movies/television. Not until grade six did school become the major source of information. As early as grade four, about 25 percent of the students said that children in their age group felt peer pressure to try alcohol or marijuana. By seventh grade, at least half of the respondents felt pressure to experiment with alcohol or marijuana. Although other studies have indicated that drug use among students is not as high as these students believed, the fact that young students think drug use is common is in itself cause for concern since many children use drugs to fit in and gain acceptance by their peers. (Survey questions and major results are summarized in this paper. Detailed tables of results, and analyses of responses of grades four through eight by geographical region, urban/suburban/rural differences, and sex of respondents are appended.) (NRB)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

ED258079

A STUDY OF CHILDREN'S ATTITUDES AND PERCEPTIONS ABOUT DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

☒ This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.

☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.

• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official NIE position or policy.

1983

Conducted By

The Weekly Reader Periodicals of Xerox Education Publications

In Cooperation With

The Drug Abuse Policy Office, Office of Policy Development
The Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health Administration
The Johnson Institute
The National Federation of Parents for Drug Free Youth
The National Institute of Drug Abuse

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

Terry Borton

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

CG 018281

Weekly Reader Publications, 245 Long Hill Road, Middletown, CT 06457 (203) 347-7251

METHODOLOGY

- Surveys were distributed in Weekly Reader Periodicals, grades 4 through 12, to 3,700,000 students.

- Teachers administered the surveys and tallied the results for their classes.

- Approximately 15,000 tally sheets, representing 500,000 children were received.

- A sample of 600 tally sheets per grade (representing 101,000 students) was selected randomly for analysis from those sent in. Grades 9-12 were treated as a group and all usable forms sent in were tabulated, as fewer students use the periodicals at these grades.

- Since the resulting sample was skewed from a representation of the population by a variety of factors, it was mathematically weightd to better reflect the actual population. The basis of weighting was:

  Geographical Region, and Urban/Suburban/Rural: Weighted to reflect the total population distribution as of 1980, according to the U.S. Census data.

  Grade: Weighted to reflect the actual 1980 school population, by grade.

  Boys/Girls: Not weighted. Actual was 51% boys; 49% girls.

- Major results are summarized on the following pages. Detailed tables of results are appended. All figures are percentages, calculated by dividing the results to each question by the total number of responses to the survey. Consequently, when a question was not answered by some students, or when there were multiple answers, the answers may not total 100 percent.

- A more detailed analysis including a breakdown for grades 4-8 by geographical region, urban/suburban/rural, and boys and girls, is also appended.

N DISTRIBUTION
Total N = 101,000

Area	Actual Count	Unweighted Percent	Weighted Percent
Urban	17,465	17	61
Suburban	37,005	37	12
Rural	46,923	46	26
Region			
Undefined*	51	0	--
New England*	5,744	5	6
Mid Atlantic	15,991	16	16
E. N. Central	26,233	26	18
W. N. Central	17,162	17	8
S. Atlantic	10,361	10	16
E. S. Central	5,811	6	7
W. S. Central	6,848	7	11
Mountain	5,784	6	5
Pacific	7,442	7	14
Grade			
4	12,717	13	20
5	12,870	13	20
6	15,602	15	20
7	24,501	24	20
8	23,867	24	20
9-12	11,840	12	--

*Combined under New England for analysis purposes.

UNITED STATES

NORTHEAST

New England
- Maine
- New Hampshire
- Vermont
- Massachusetts
- Rhode Island
- Connecticut

Middle Atlantic
- New York
- New Jersey
- Pennsylvania
- Delaware*

NORTH CENTRAL

East North Central
- Ohio
- Indiana
- Illinois
- Michigan
- Wisconsin

West North Central
- Minnesota
- Iowa
- Missouri
- North Dakota
- South Dakota
- Nebraska
- Kansas

SOUTH

South Atlantic
- Maryland
- District of Columbia
- Virginia
- West Virginia
- North Carolina
- South Carolina
- Georgia
- Florida

SOUTH CENTRAL

East South Central
- Kentucky
- Tennessee
- Alabama
- Mississippi

West South Central
- Arkansas
- Louisiana
- Oklahoma
- Texas

WEST

Mountain
- Montana
- Idaho
- Wyoming
- Colorado
- New Mexico
- Arizona
- Utah
- Nevada

Pacific
- Washington
- Oregon
- California
- Alaska
- Hawaii

*In census information Delaware is listed in the South Atlantic region, but since both Delaware and Pennsylvania have the same zip code, they are combined for this analysis in the Middle Atlantic group.

CAUTION

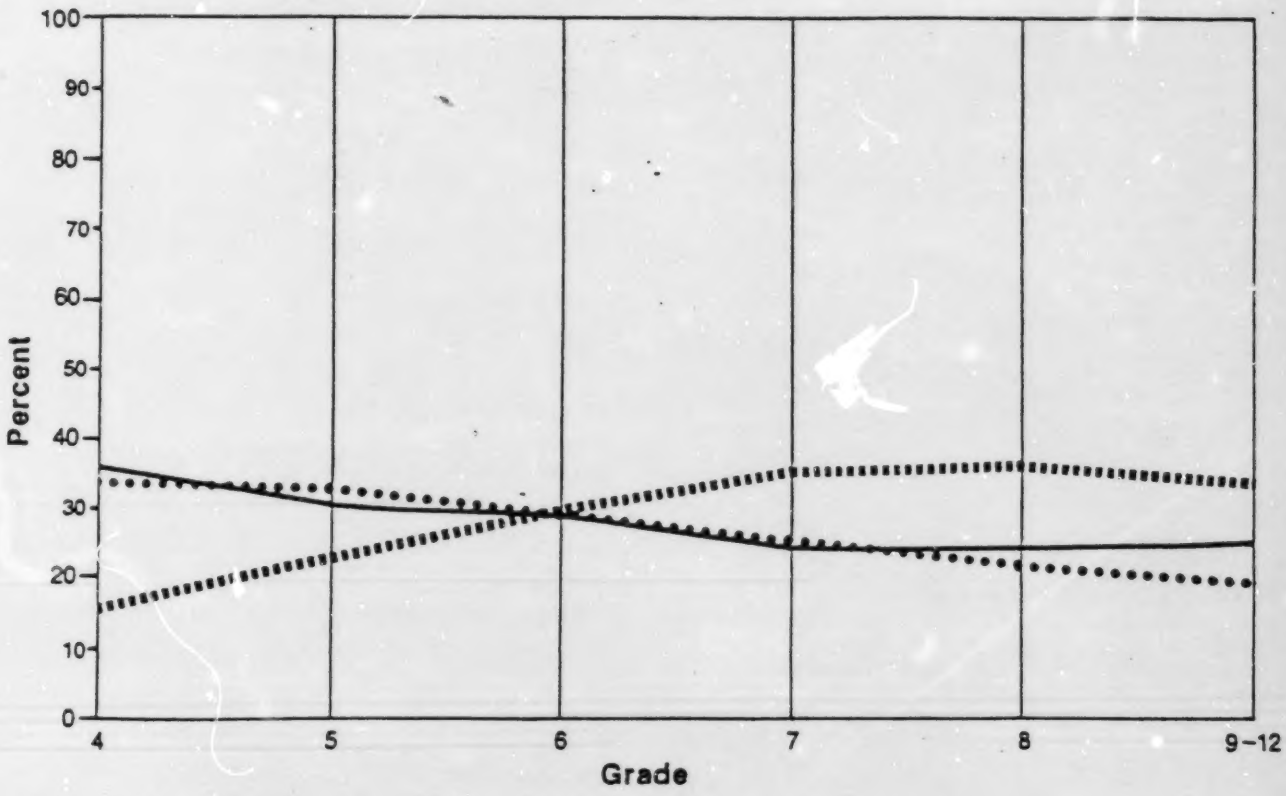
THIS SURVEY IS A READERSHIP OPINION POLL, NOT A RANDOM SAMPLE OF THE POPULATION. RESULTS HAVE BEEN WEIGHTED TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE POPULATION, BUT THEY SHOULD BE TREATED AS INDICATIVE OF GENERAL TRENDS, RATHER THAN AS PRECISE STATISTICS.

IN SEVERAL QUESTIONS, STUDENTS ARE REPORTING THEIR PERCEPTION OF THE ACTIONS "OF KIDS YOUR AGE." NOTE THAT IN THESE QUESTIONS STUDENTS ARE NOT REPORTING ON THEIR OWN BEHAVIOR, BUT WHAT THEY BELIEVE TO BE HAPPENING AMONG OTHER STUDENTS.

1

Survey Question
Where have you learned the most about the dangers of drugs and drinking?

Answer Summary
In fourth and fifth grade, students say they learn the most about the dangers of drugs and drinking from family and TV/movies. In 7th grade and up, school is the most common source of such information.



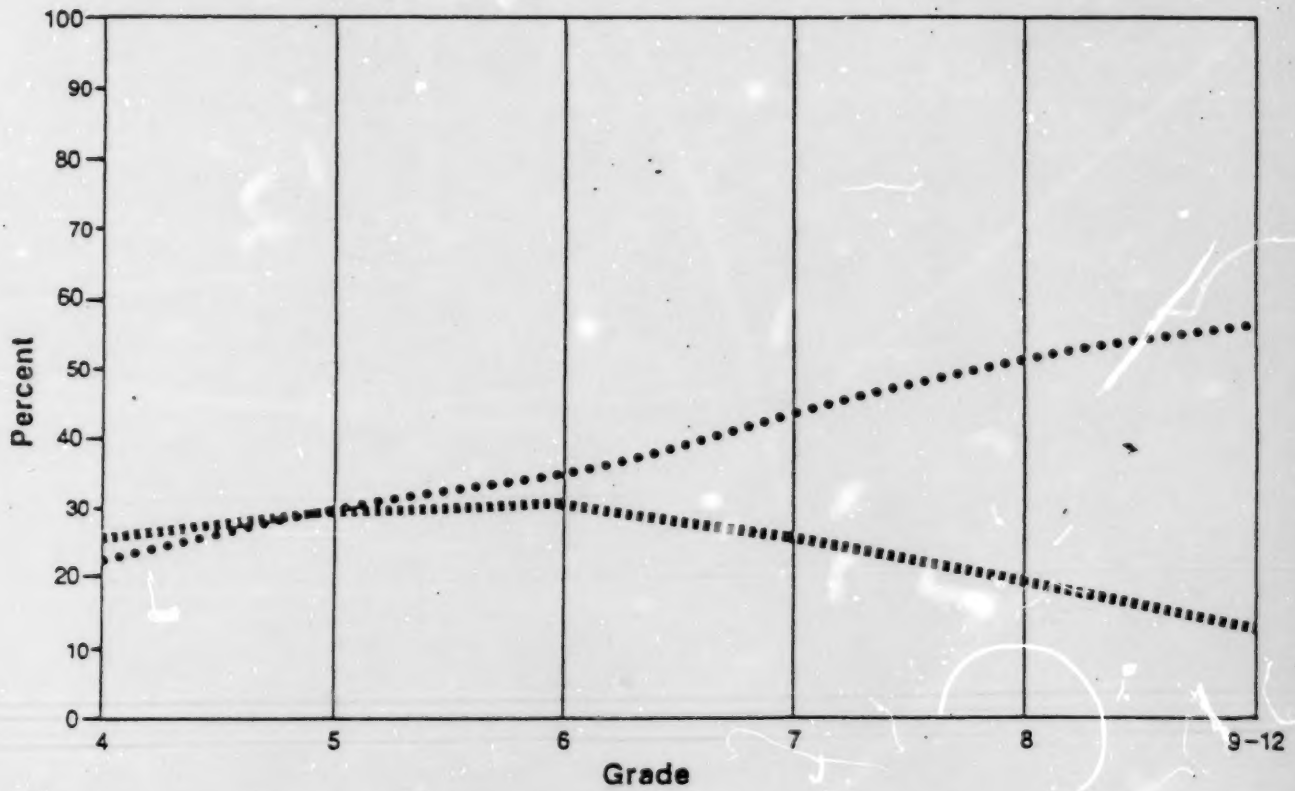
Source of Information on Dangers of Drugs and Drinking. Percent Specifying as Primary Source.

Key
School
TV/Movies
Family

2

Survey Question
Where have you learned the most about things that might make drugs and drinking seem like fun?

Answer Summary
From fourth grade through high school, "other kids" become an increasingly important influence in making drugs and drinking seem like fun, while the other major influence, "TV/movies," declines in importance with age.



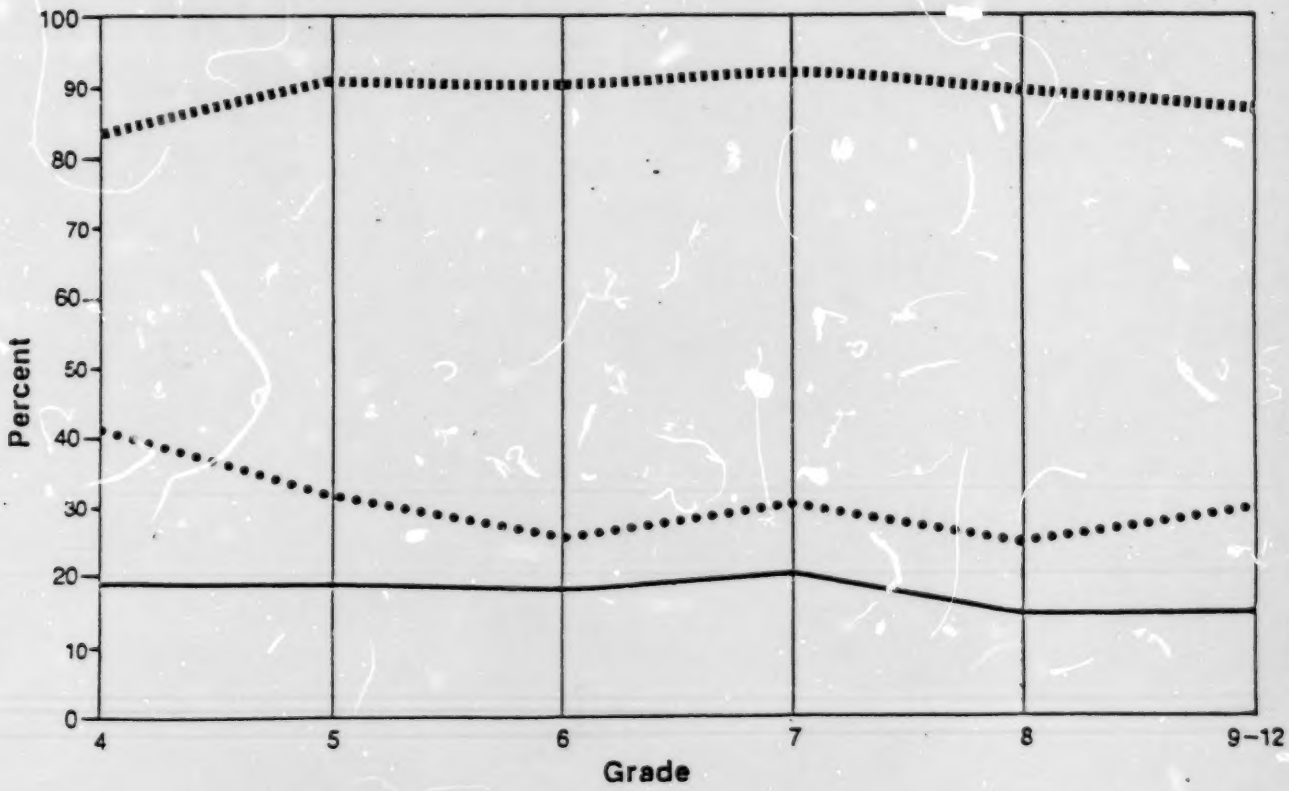
Source of Information on Things that Make Drugs and Drinking Seem Like Fun. Percent Specifying as Primary Source

Key
Other Kids ••••••••••••
TV/Movies ▪▪▪▪▪▪▪▪▪▪▪▪▪▪▪▪

3

Survey Question
Which of these do you think should be called "drugs"? Cigarettes; Beer, wine/liquor; Marijuana (grass or pot)

Answer Summary
Marijuana is considered a drug by almost all students at all grade levels; alcohol and cigarettes much less so.



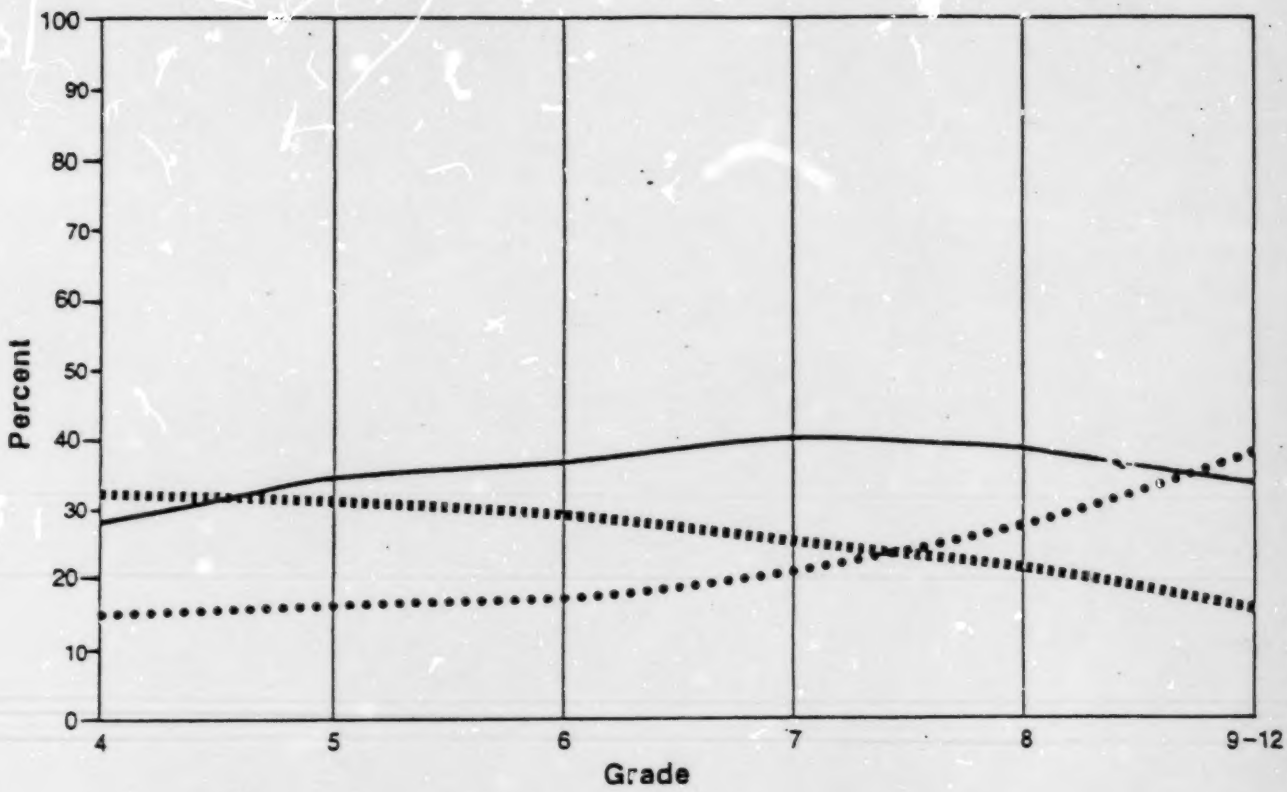
Percent Who Call Substances "Drugs," by Grade.

Key
Marijuana
Beer/Wine/Liquor
Cigarettes

4

Survey Question
What is the main reason you think kids start to use beer, wine, or liquor?

Answer Summary
"Feeling older" and "Fitting in with other kids" are the main reasons fourth through seventh graders think kids start using alcohol. By high school, "Having a good time" becomes the major reason.



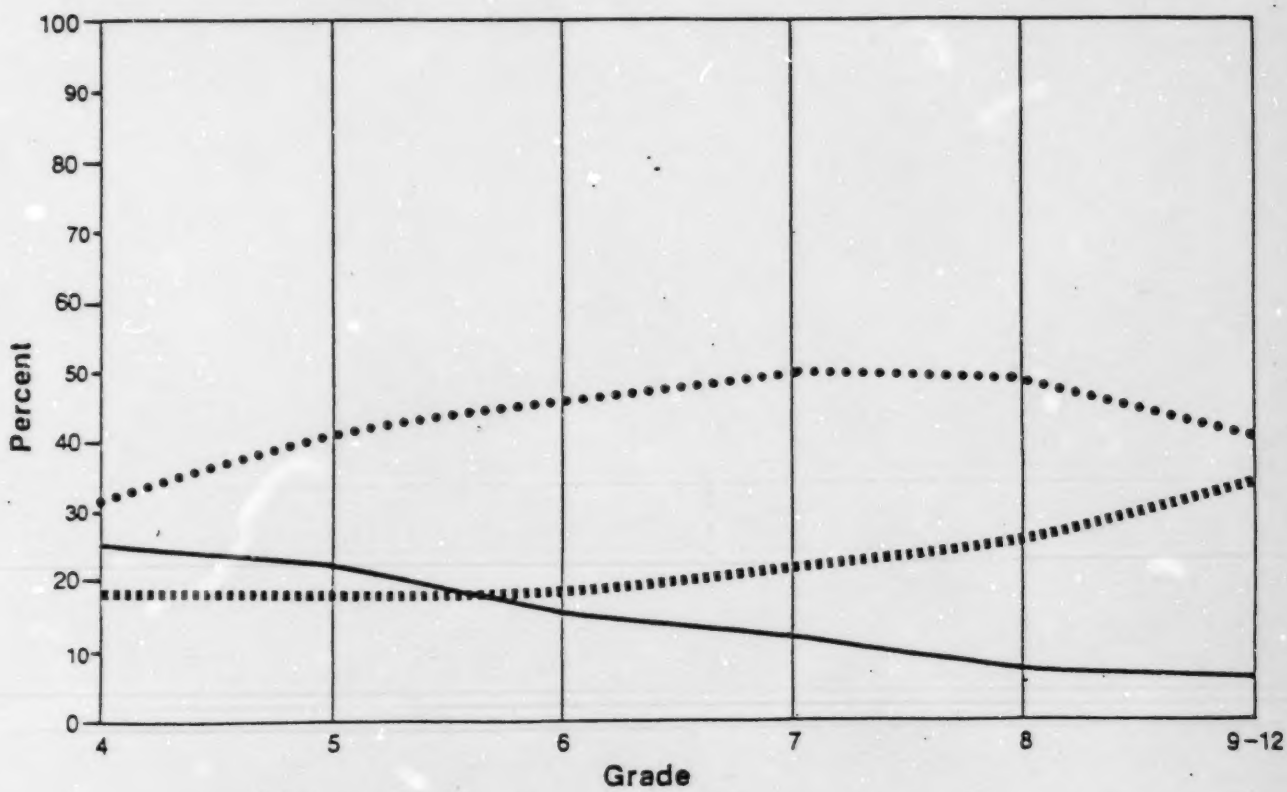
Percent Reporting Reason Kids Start Using Beer, Wine, or Liquor.

Key
Fit In
Feel Older
Have a Good Time

4a

Survey Question
What is the main reason you think kids start to use marijuana (grass or pot)?

Answer Summary
"Fitting in with other kids" is the main reason students of all grades think kids start to use marijuana. In contrast to the reasons given for using alcohol, "feeling older" is not a major reason except among the lowest grades.



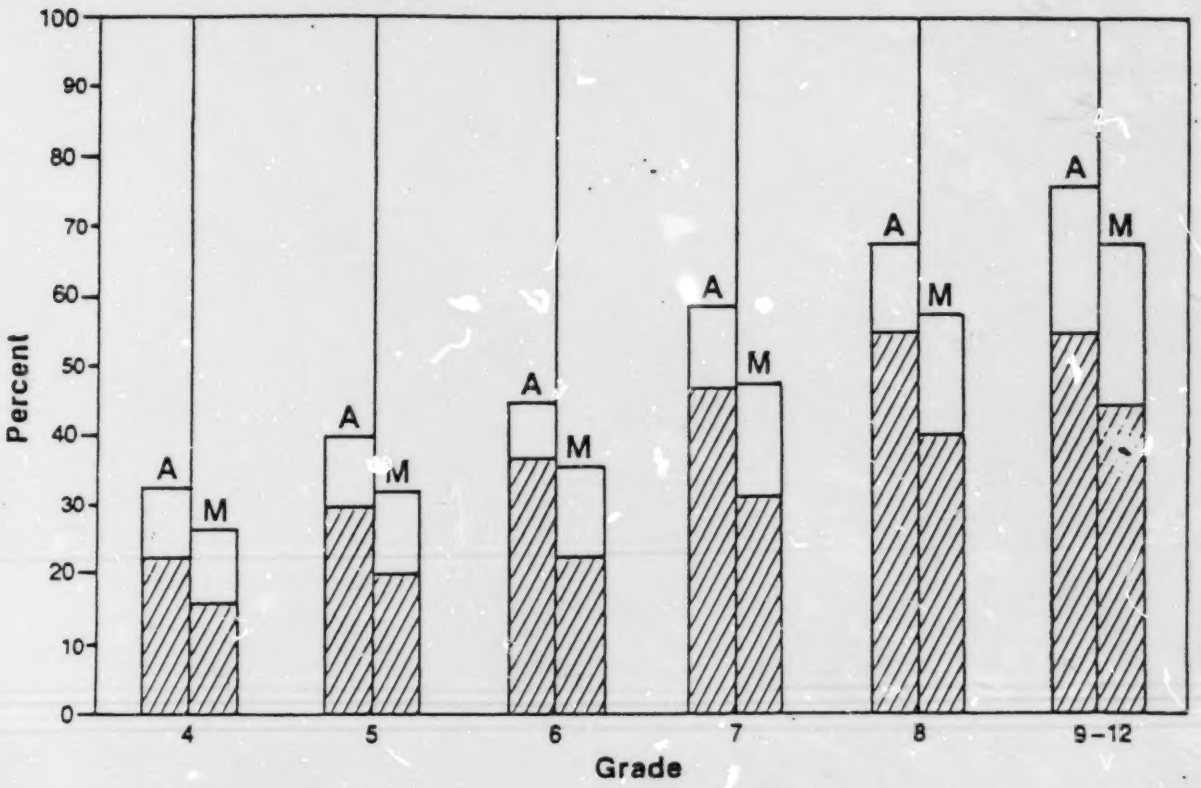
Percent Reporting Reason Kids Start Using Marijuana (grass, pot).

Key
Fit In .....
Feel Older _____
Have a Good Time .....

5

Survey Question
How much do kids your age push each other to try beer, wine, liquor, or to try marijuana (grass or pot)?

Answer Summary
The amount students say kids push each other to try alcohol is slightly higher than for marijuana, and both increase with age.



Percent Reporting That Kids Push Each Other to Try Alcohol and Marijuana.

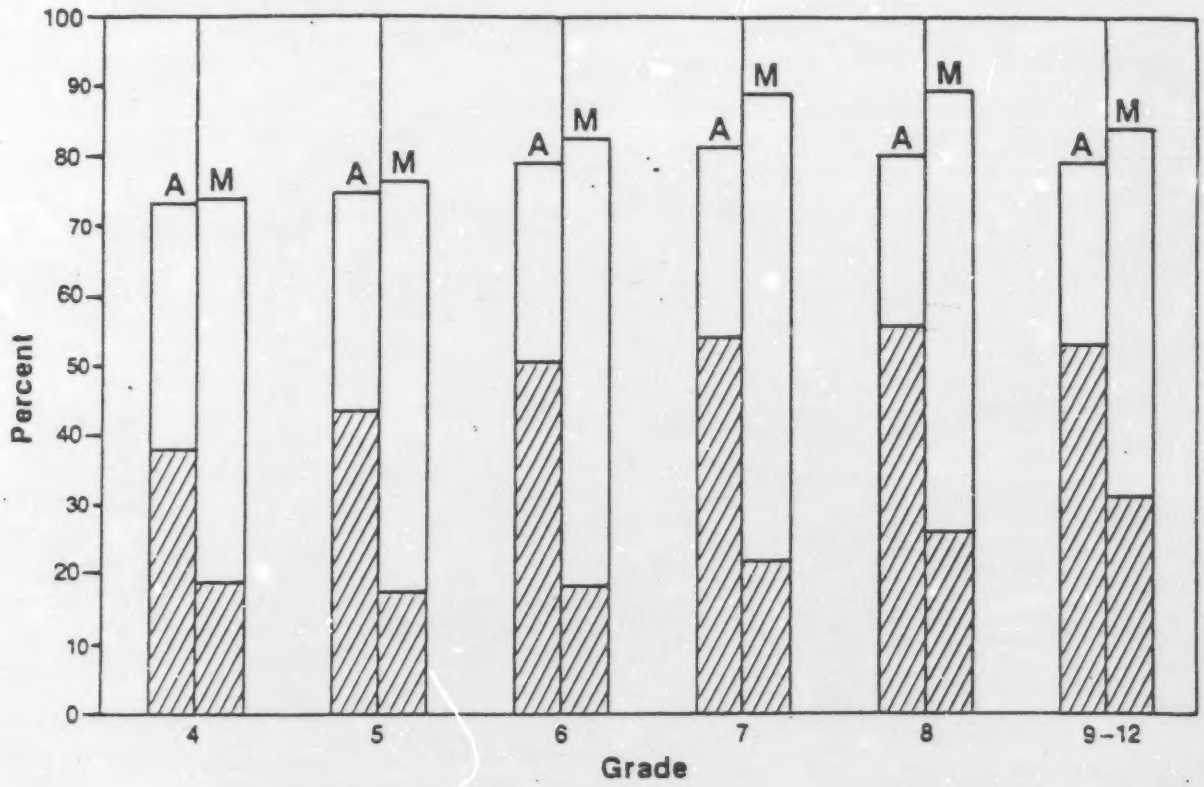
Key
Some
A Lot

A = Alchohol
M = Marijuana

6

Survey Question
How much do you think kids your age risk harming themselves (physysically or in other ways) if they have one daily drink of beer, wine, liquor, or if they smoke one marijuana joint daily?

Answer Summary
Most students of all grades think kids their age risk harming themselves if they have a daily drink of alcohol or a marijuana joint, but marijuana is seen as a greater risk than alcohol.



Percent Reporting That Kids Their Age Risk Harming Themselves if They Have a Daily Drink of Alcohol or a Marijuana Joint.

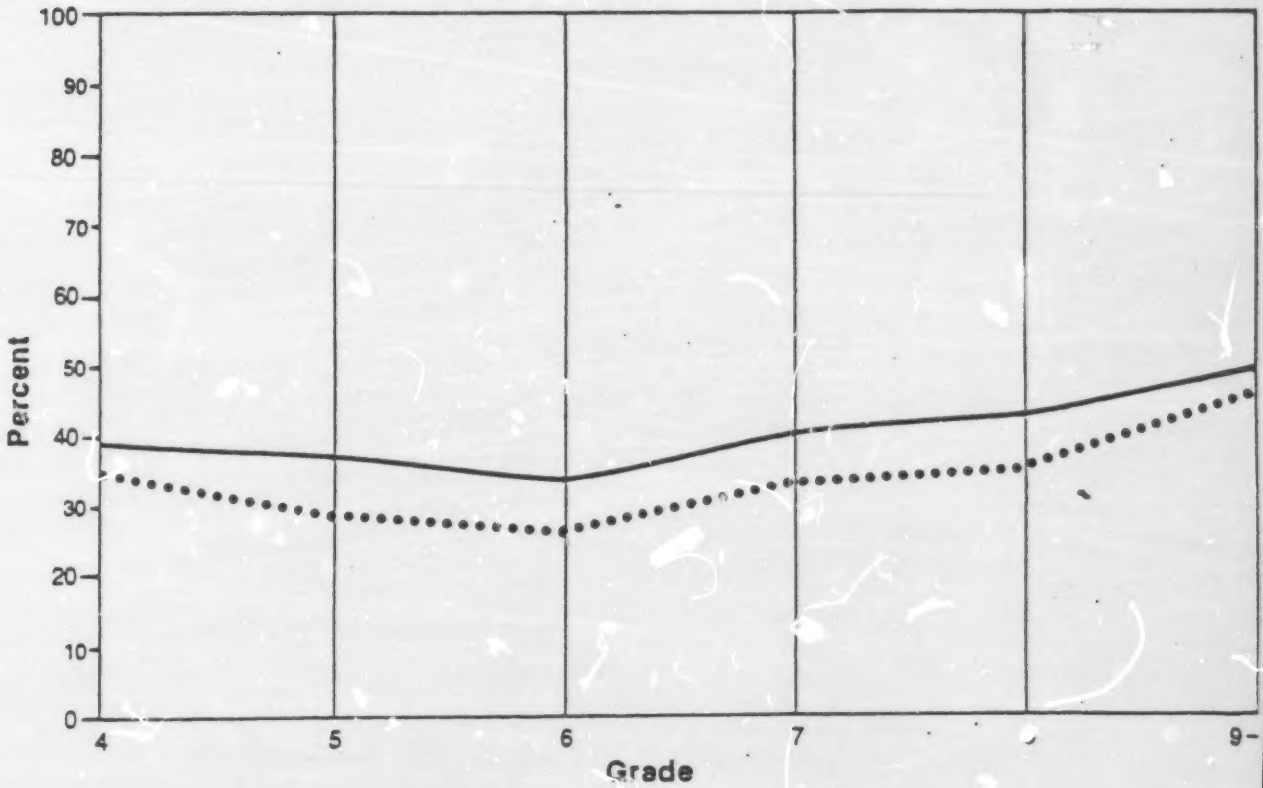
Key
Some Risk
Great Risk

A = Alcohol
M = Marijuana

7

Survey Question
In your town of city, how big a problem do think there is with drinking beer, wine, or liquor, and with using drugs among kids your age?

Answer Summar
About one thi[illegible]idents in grades 4-8 believe that drinking alcohol is "A big problem" ar[illegible]is their age, and about 40% say the same about drugs. In both cases the p[illegible]entage rises among high school students.



Percent Reporting That Using Drugs and Drinking Alcohol are "A Big Problem" Among Kids Their Age.

Key
Drugs ———
Alcohol ••••••••••

8

Survey Question
In your town or city, how many kids your age do you think have ever tried

A
1.) beer, wine, or liquor?
2.) marijuana (grass or pot)?

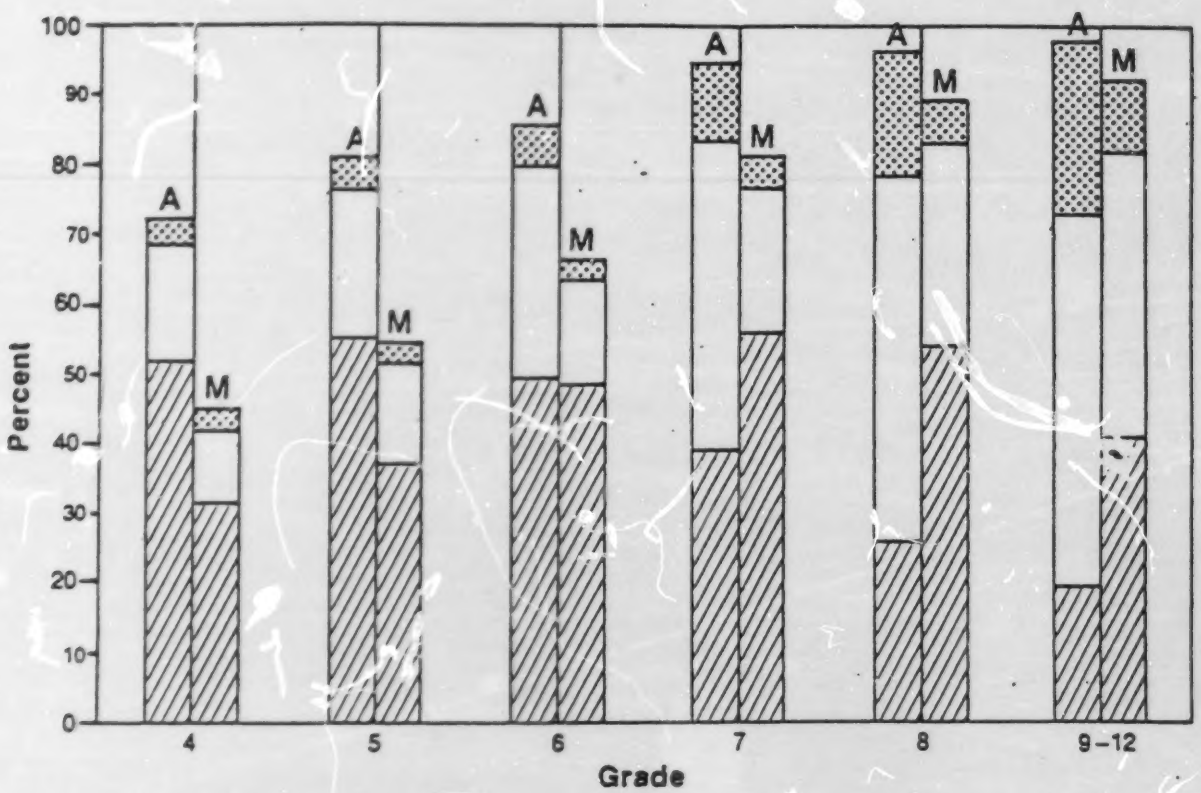
B
3.) sniffing glue or other chemicals?
4.) uppers or downers (prescription pills taken without doctor's orders)?

C
5.) cocaine (coke)?
6.) PCP (angel dust) or LSD (acid)?

Answer Summary
Most fourth graders believe some kids their age in their town have tried alcohol; almost all high school students believe so. About half of fourth graders believe some kids their age in their town have tried marijuana; almost all high school students believe so. The perception of use of other drugs such as glue, uppers and downers, coke, angel dust, and acid is in the same range for fourth grades.

Cautionary Note: This data does not mean (for instance) that half of fourth graders have tried marijuana, but that half believe others have tried it.

A



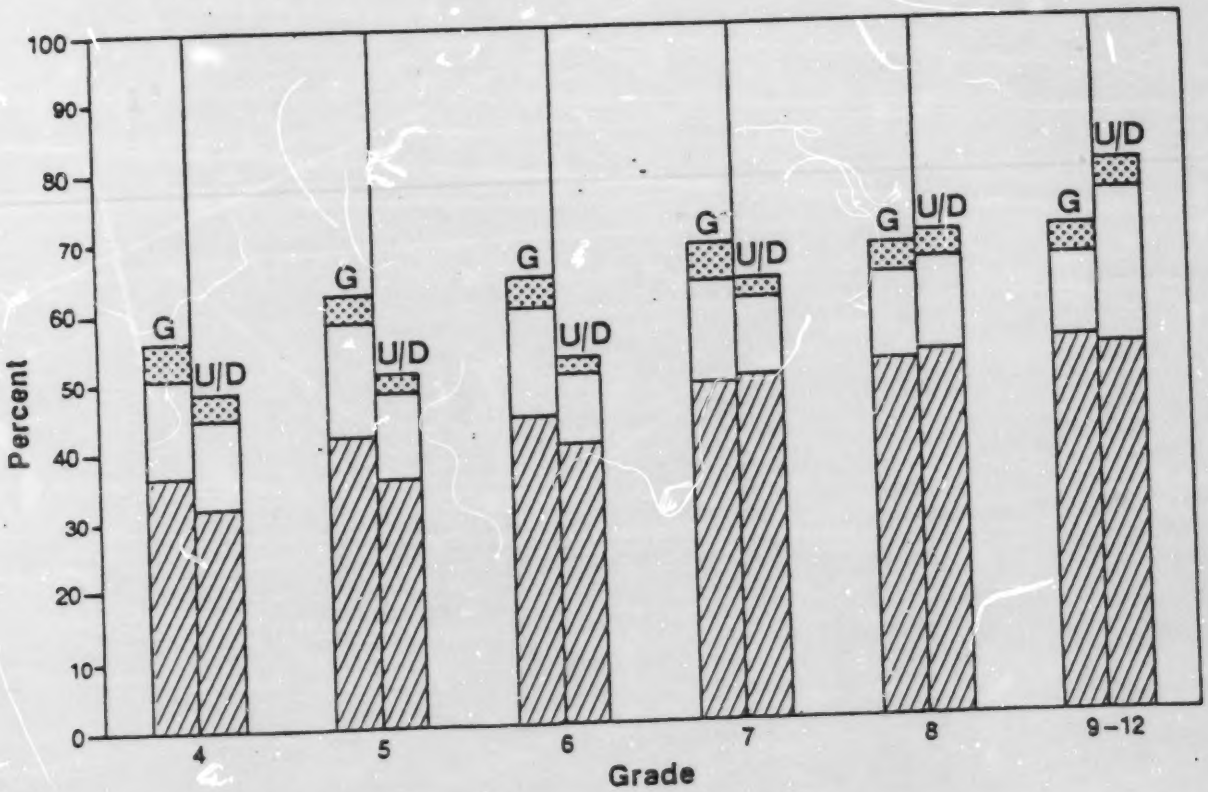
Percent Reporting Estimates of How Many "Kids Your Age Have Ever Tried" Alcohol or Marijuana.

Key
Some
Most
All

A = Alcohol

M = Marijuana

B



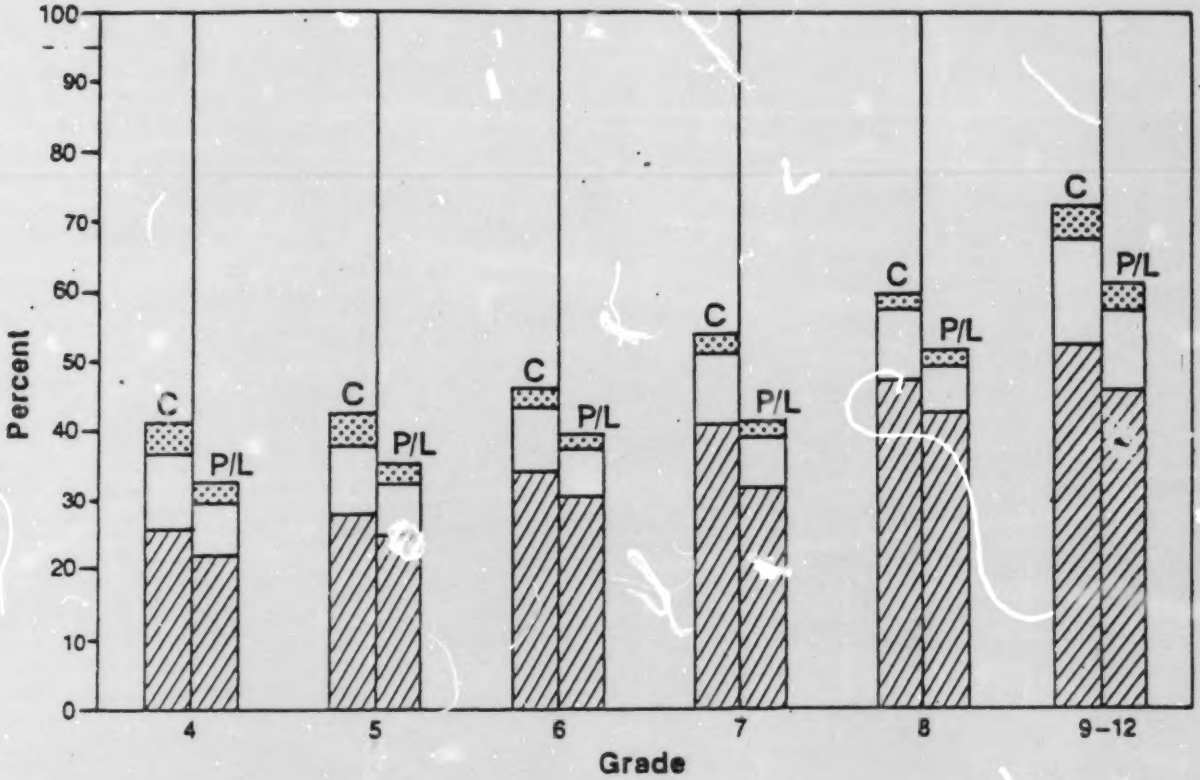
Percent Reporting Estimates of How Many "Kids Your Age Have Ever Tried" Sniffing Glue or Uppers and Downers.

Key
Some
Most
All

G = Glue

U/D = Uppers/Downers

C



Percent Reporting Estimates of How Many "Kids Your Age Have Ever Tried" Cocaine or PCP/LSD.

Key
Some
Most
All

C = Cocaine

P/L = PCP/LSD

OTHER ANALYSES

The data for grades 4-8 were analyzed by sex, by type of community, and by region of the country.

Boys/Girls

Girls are more likely than boys to report that other kids try drugs and liquor to "fit in," and are more likely to believe that there is a "big problem" with drugs and drinking among kids their age.

Urban/Suburban/Rural

More children in urban areas report pressures to try marijuana and liquor, feel both are "big problems," and report more kids using most drugs.

Region of the Country

Differences by region of the country are marked and varied. In general, more children on the two coasts report more involvement with drugs of all sorts, while children in the North Central and Mountain states report the least.

TABLES

WEEKLY READER DRUGS AND DRINKING SURVEY
WEIGHTED VALUES
BY GRADE

	GRADE 4	GRADE 5	GRADE 6	GRADE 7	GRADE 8	GRADES 9-12	TOTAL
WHERE HAVE YOU LEARNED THE MOST ABOUT THE DANGERS OF DRUGS AND DRINKING (Table 1)							
FAMILY	36	33	29	25	22	19	25
SCHOOL	18	23	30	35	36	34	31
CHURCH	3	2	2	2	3	4	3
TV/MOVIES	38	31	29	26	25	25	28
OTHER KIDS	7	7	7	10	12	16	12
NOWHERE	6	4	2	2	2	5	4
SUBTOT	106	99	99	101	100	104	102
WHERE HAVE YOU HEARD THE MOST ABOUT THINGS THAT MAKE DRUGS/LIQUOR SEEM LIKE FUN (Table 2)							
FAMILY	4	3	2	2	2	2	3
SCHOOL	5	5	6	8	9	14	10
MAGAZINES	10	8	4	3	3	2	4
TV/MOVIES	28	29	30	27	20	13	21
OTHER KIDS	27	30	35	43	52	58	46
NOWHERE	29	24	21	15	13	10	16
SUBTOT	99	98	99	99	99	100	100
WHICH OF THESE DO YOU THINK SHOULD BE CALLED DRUGS (Table 3)							
CIGARETTES	20	18	17	19	17	16	17
BEER,WINE/LIQUOR	42	33	28	30	27	30	31
MARIJUANA	84	91	91	92	91	88	89
SUBTOT	146	142	136	142	135	133	137

WEEKLY READER DRUGS AND DRINKING SURVEY
WEIGHTED VALUES
BY GRADE

	GRADE 4	GRADE 5	GRADE 6	GRADE 7	GRADE 8	GRADES 9-12	TOTAL
WHAT IS THE MAIN REASON YOU THINK KIDS MIGHT START TO USE BEER, WINE, OR LIQUOR (Table 4)							
FEEL OLDER	33	31	30	25	21	18	23
HAVE A GOOD TIME	17	18	18	21	29	39	29
GET OVER FEELING BAD	10	9	10	9	8	11	10
FIT IN WITH OTHER KIDS	28	34	37	41	38	33	35
SOME OTHER REASON	8	6	5	4	4	5	5
SUBTOT	97	99	100	100	99	106	102
WHAT IS THE MAIN REASON YOU THINK KIDS MIGHT START TO USE MARIJUANA (Table 4a)							
FEEL OLDER	26	22	16	12	8	7	13
HAVE A GOOD TIME	19	18	17	22	25	34	27
GET OVER FEELING BAD	8	9	13	12	12	14	13
FIT IN WITH OTHER KIDS	32	41	46	49	48	41	42
SOME OTHER REASON	9	7	6	5	4	7	6
SUBTOT	94	97	99	100	98	103	100
HOW MUCH DO KIDS YOUR AGE PUSH EACH OTHER TO TRY BEER WINE, OR LIQUOR (Table 5a)							
NONE	61	59	52	37	30	25	37
SOME	24	29	37	48	54	54	45
A LOT	11	10	9	13	14	21	16
SUBTOT	95	98	97	97	98	99	98

WEEKLY READER DRUGS AND DRINKING SURVEY
WEIGHTED VALUES
BY GRADE

	GRADE 4	GRADE 5	GRADE 6	GRADE 7	GRADE 8	GRADES 9-12	TOTAL
HOW MUCH DO KIDS YOUR AGE PUSH EACH OTHER TO TRY MARIJUANA (Table 5b)							
NONE	65	65	60	48	42	29	44
SOME	17	19	23	32	39	44	34
A LOT	12	13	13	17	17	25	19
SUBTOT	94	97	96	96	98	98	97
HOW MUCH DO KIDS RISK HARMING THEMSELVES IF THEY HAVE ONE DAILY DRINK (Table 6a)							
NO RISK	22	21	17	14	16	20	19
SOME RISK	38	44	50	54	57	54	51
GREAT RISK	36	32	30	28	25	26	28
SUBTOT	96	97	97	96	98	100	98
HOW MUCH DO KIDS RISK HARMING THEMSELVES IF THEY SMOKE ONE MARIJUANA JOINT DAILY (Table 6b)							
NO RISK	20	17	12	8	7	13	13
SOME RISK	19	17	19	23	24	34	27
GREAT RISK	55	61	66	66	63	52	57
SUBTOT	94	95	97	96	97	99	97
HOW BIG A PROBLEM DO YOU THINK THERE IS WITH DRINKING BEER, WINE OR LIQUOR (Table 7a)							
NO PROBLEM	27	25	17	10	8	9	14
NOT MUCH OF A PROBLEM	34	45	53	53	55	44	46
A BIG PROBLEM	35	29	26	33	35	47	39
SUBTOT	96	98	97	96	98	100	98

WEEKLY READER DRUGS AND DRINKING SURVEY
WEIGHTED VALUES
BY GRADE

	GRADE 4	GRADE 5	GRADE 6	GRADE 7	GRADE 8	GRADES 9-12	TOTAL
HOW BIG A PROBLEM DO YOU THINK THERE IS WITH DRUGS (Table 7b)							
NO PROBLEM	31	30	22	15	11	9	16
NOT MUCH OF A PROBLEM	23	30	40	41	44	37	36
A BIG PROBLEM	39	37	34	40	42	51	44
SUBTOT	93	97	96	96	97	98	97
HOW MANY KIDS YOUR AGE DO YOU THINK HAVE EVER TRIED BEER, WINE OR LIQUOR (Table 8a1)							
NONE	21	16	9	4	2	2	7
SOME	52	55	50	38	26	19	33
MOST	17	22	31	45	53	53	42
ALL	5	5	7	11	18	25	16
SUBTOT	96	98	97	98	99	99	98
HOW MANY KIDS YOUR AGE DO YOU THINK HAVE EVER TRIED MARIJUANA (Table 8a2)							
NONE	49	43	31	16	9	5	18
SOME	33	38	48	57	56	38	43
MOST	10	14	14	21	29	44	30
ALL	3	3	3	4	6	12	7
SUBTOT	96	98	97	98	99	99	98
HOW MANY KIDS YOUR AGE DO YOU THINK HAVE EVER TRIED SNIFFING GLUE OR CHEMICALS (Table 8b3)							
NONE	38	34	30	29	29	26	29
SOME	38	42	45	48	52	55	49
MOST	15	16	16	15	13	12	14
ALL	5	4	5	5	5	4	4
SUBTOT	95	97	95	97	98	97	97

WEEKLY READER DRUGS AND DRINKING SURVEY
WEIGHTED VALUES
BY GRADE

	GRADE 4	GRADE 5	GRADE 6	GRADE 7	GRADE 8	GRADES 9-12	TOTAL
HOW MANY KIDS YOUR AGE DO YOU THINK HAVE EVER TRIED UPPERS OR DOWNERS (Table 8b4)							
NONE	46	45	41	32	26	16	28
SOME	32	36	41	49	54	53	47
MOST	12	12	11	11	13	22	17
ALL	4	3	2	2	3	5	4
SUBTOT	94	96	95	94	96	96	95
HOW MANY KIDS YOUR AGE DO YOU THINK HAVE EVER TRIED COCAINE (Table 8c5)							
NONE	53	53	49	40	36	24	36
SOME	27	29	34	41	47	52	43
MOST	10	10	9	10	9	16	12
ALL	5	5	3	3	2	5	4
SUBTOT	95	96	95	93	95	97	96
HOW MANY KIDS YOUR AGE DO YOU THINK HAVE EVER TRIED PCP OR LSD (Table 8c6)							
NONE	59	57	55	47	42	32	43
SOME	23	26	30	36	44	47	39
MOST	9	8	7	7	7	12	10
ALL	4	3	2	3	2	4	3
SUBTOT	94	94	95	93	95	95	95

ANALYSIS+ 04/06/83

WEEKLY READER DRUGS AND DRINKING SURVEY
WEIGHTED VALUES - GRADES 4-8
BY SEX

	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
WHERE HAVE YOU LEARNED THE MOST ABOUT THE DANGERS OF DRUGS AND DRINKING			
FAMILY	28	31	29
SCHOOL	27	28	28
CHURCH	3	2	2
TV/MOVIES	32	28	30
OTHER KIDS	9	8	9
NOWHERE	4	3	3
SUBTOT	103	100	101
WHERE HAVE YOU HEARD THE MOST ABOUT THINGS THAT MAKE DRUGS/LIQUOR SEEM LIKE FUN			
FAMILY	3	3	3
SCHOOL	7	6	7
MAGAZINES	6	5	6
TV/MOVIES	28	26	27
OTHER KIDS	37	36	37
NOWHERE	19	22	21
SUBTOT	100	98	99
WHICH OF THESE DO YOU THINK SHOULD BE CALLED DRUGS			
CIGARETTES	18	19	18
BEER,WINE/LIQUOR	30	33	32
MARIJUANA	89	90	90
SUBTOT	138	142	140

WEEKLY READER DRUGS AND DRINKING SURVEY
WEIGHTED VALUES - GRADES 4-6
BY SEX

	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
WHAT IS THE MAIN REASON YOU THINK KIDS MIGHT START TO USE BEER, WINE OR LIQUOR			
FEEL OLDER	28	28	28
HAVE A GOOD TIME	22	19	20
GET OVER FEELING BAD	9	9	9
FIT IN WITH OTHER KIDS	33	38	36
SOME OTHER REASON	6	5	6
SUBTOT	99	99	99
WHAT IS THE MAIN REASON YOU THINK KIDS MIGHT START TO USE MARIJUANA			
FEEL OLDER	17	17	17
HAVE A GOOD TIME	23	17	20
GET OVER FEELING BAD	11	11	11
FIT IN WITH OTHER KIDS	40	47	43
SOME OTHER REASON	7	6	6
SUBTOT	97	98	98
HOW MUCH DO KIDS YOUR AGE PUSH EACH OTHER TO TRY BEER WINE OR LIQUOR			
NONE	48	47	48
SOME	38	39	38
A LOT	12	11	11
SUBTOT	98	97	97
HOW MUCH DO KIDS YOUR AGE PUSH EACH OTHER TO TRY MARIJUANA			
NONE	57	55	56
SOME	25	27	26
A LOT	13	14	14
SUBTOT	96	96	96

WEEKLY READER DRUGS AND DRINKING SURVEY
WEIGHTED VALUES - GRADES 4-8
BY SEX

	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
W MUCH DO KIDS RISK HARMING THEMSELVES IF THEY HAVE ONE DAILY DRINK			
NO RISK	20	17	18
SOME RISK	48	50	49
GREAT RISK	30	30	30
SUBTOT	97	97	97
W MUCH DO KIDS RISK HARMING THEMSELVES IF THEY SMOKE ONE MARIJUANA JOINT DAILY			
NO RISK	13	12	13
SOME RISK	21	21	21
GREAT RISK	62	63	62
SUBTOT	96	96	96
W BIG A PROBLEM DO YOU THINK THERE IS WITH DRINKING BEER, WINE OR LIQUOR			
NO PROBLEM	19	16	17
NOT MUCH OF A PROBLEM	48	47	48
A BIG PROBLEM	30	33	32
SUBTOT	97	97	97
OW BIG A PROBLEM DO YOU THINK THERE IS WITH DRUGS			
NO PROBLEM	23	20	22
NOT MUCH OF A PROBLEM	36	36	36
A BIG PROBLEM	36	41	38
SUBTOT	96	96	96

BEST COPY AVAILAB

WEEKLY READER DRUGS AND DRINKING SURVEY
WEIGHTED VALUES - GRADES 4-8
BY SEX

	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
HOW MANY KIDS YOUR AGE DO YOU THINK HAVE EVER TRIED BEER, WINE OR LIQUOR			
NONE	11	10	11
SOME	44	43	44
MOST	33	34	33
ALL	10	9	9
SUBTOT	97	98	97
HOW MANY KIDS YOUR AGE DO YOU THINK HAVE EVER TRIED MARIJUANA			
NONE	30	29	30
SOME	46	46	46
MOST	16	19	17
ALL	4	3	4
SUBTOT	97	98	97
HOW MANY KIDS YOUR AGE DO YOU THINK HAVE EVER TRIED SNIFFING GLUE OR CHEMICALS			
NONE	33	32	32
SOME	44	43	43
MOST	14	13	13
ALL	5	5	5
SUBTOT	96	97	96
HOW MANY KIDS YOUR AGE DO YOU THINK HAVE EVER TRIED UPPERS OR DOWNERS			
NONE	40	36	38
SOME	41	43	42
MOST	11	12	12
ALL	3	3	3
SUBTOT	96	94	95

WEEKLY READER DRUGS AND DRINKING SURVEY
WEIGHTED VALUES - GRADES 4-8
BY SEX

	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
HOW MANY KIDS YOUR AGE DO YOU THINK HAVE EVER TRIED COCAINE			
NONE	49	43	46
SOME	34	37	35
MOST	9	11	10
ALL	4	3	4
SUBTOT	96	94	95
HOW MANY KIDS YOUR AGE DO YOU THINK HAVE EVER TRIED PCP OR LSD			
NONE	54	50	52
SOME	30	33	32
MOST	7	8	8
ALL	3	3	3
SUBTOT	95	94	94

WEEKLY READER DRUGS AND DRINKING SURVEY
WEIGHTED VALUES - GRADES 4-8
BY AREA

	URBAN	SUBURBAN	RURAL	TOTAL
WHERE HAVE YOU LEARNED THE MOST ABOUT THE DANGERS OF DRUGS AND DRINKING				
FAMILY	30	29	28	29
SCHOOL	27	29	29	28
CHURCH	2	3	3	2
TV/MOVIES	30	29	29	30
OTHER KIDS	9	8	7	9
NOWHERE	4	3	3	3
SUBTOT	102	100	99	101
WHERE HAVE YOU HEARD THE MOST ABOUT THINGS THAT MAKE DRUGS/LIQUOR SEEM LIKE FUN				
FAMILY	3	3	3	3
SCHOOL	6	7	7	7
MAGAZINES	6	5	5	6
TV/MOVIES	27	28	27	27
OTHER KIDS	38	36	35	37
NOWHERE	20	22	22	21
SUBTOT	99	99	99	99
WHICH OF THESE DO YOU THINK SHOULD BE CALLED DRUGS				
CIGARETTES	17	19	21	18
BEER,WINE/LIQUOR	31	32	34	32
MARIJUANA	89	91	91	90
SUBTOT	137	142	145	140

WEEKLY READER DRUGS AND DRINKING SURVEY
WEIGHTED VALUES - GRADES 4-8
BY AREA

	URBAN	SUBURBAN	RURAL	TOTAL
WHAT IS THE MAIN REASON YOU THINK KIDS MIGHT START TO USE BEER, WINE OR LIQUOR				
FEEL OLDER	28	28	29	28
HAVE A GOOD TIME	21	20	20	20
GET OVER FEELING BAD	10	9	8	9
FIT IN WITH OTHER KIDS	35	37	36	36
SOME OTHER REASON	6	5	6	6
SUBTOT	99	100	99	99
WHAT IS THE MAIN REASON YOU THINK KIDS MIGHT START TO USE MARIJUANA				
FEEL OLDER	17	16	18	17
HAVE A GOOD TIME	21	20	19	20
GET OVER FEELING BAD	11	11	10	11
FIT IN WITH OTHER KIDS	43	46	43	43
SOME OTHER REASON	6	6	7	6
SUBTOT	98	98	97	98
HOW MUCH DO KIDS YOUR AGE PUSH EACH OTHER TO TRY BEER WINE OR LIQUOR				
NONE	46	51	51	48
SOME	39	37	37	38
A LOT	12	9	10	11
SUBTOT	97	98	98	97
HOW MUCH DO KIDS YOUR AGE PUSH EACH OTHER TO TRY MARIJUANA				
NONE	52	60	63	56
SOME	27	25	23	26
A LOT	17	11	10	14
SUBTOT	96	97	97	96

WEEKLY READER DRUGS AND DRINKING SURVEY
WEIGHTED VALUES - GRADES 4-8
BY AREA

	URBAN	SUBURBAN	RURAL	TOTAL
HOW MUCH DO KIDS RISK HARMING THEMSELVES IF THEY HAVE ONE DAILY DRINK				
NO RISK	18	18	18	18
SOME RISK	48	50	49	49
GREAT RISK	30	31	31	30
SUBTOT	96	98	98	97
HOW MUCH DO KIDS RISK HARMING THEMSELVES IF THEY SMOKE ONE MARIJUANA JOINT DAILY				
NO RISK	13	12	13	13
SOME RISK	21	20	20	21
GREAT RISK	61	65	65	62
SUBTOT	95	96	97	96
HOW BIG A PROBLEM DO YOU THINK THERE IS WITH DRINKING BEER, WINE OR LIQUOR				
NO PROBLEM	13	20	22	17
NOT MUCH OF A PROBLEM	46	51	52	48
A BIG PROBLEM	36	27	24	32
SUBTOT	97	98	98	97
HOW BIG A PROBLEM DO YOU THINK THERE IS WITH DRUGS				
NO, PROBLEM	18	24	30	22
NOT MUCH OF A PROBLEM	33	40	39	36
A BIG PROBLEM	44	33	27	38
SUBTOT	95	97	97	96

WEEKLY READER DRUGS AND DRINKING SURVEY
WEIGHTED VALUES - GRADES 4-8
BY AREA

	URBAN	SUBURBAN	RURAL	TOTAL
HOW MANY KIDS YOUR AGE DO YOU THINK HAVE EVER TRIED BEER, WINE OR LIQUOR				
NONE	10	11	11	11
SOME	43	45	46	44
MOST	34	33	32	33
ALL	10	9	8	9
SUBTOT	97	98	98	97
HOW MANY KIDS YOUR AGE DO YOU THINK HAVE EVER TRIED MARIJUANA				
NONE	26	33	37	30
SOME	46	48	46	46
MOST	21	15	11	18
ALL	5	2	2	4
SUBTOT	97	98	98	97
HOW MANY KIDS YOUR AGE DO YOU THINK HAVE EVER TRIED SNIFFING GLUE OR CHEMICALS				
NONE	31	32	33	32
SOME	45	46	44	45
MOST	15	15	14	15
ALL	5	4	5	5
SUBTOT	96	97	97	96
HOW MANY KIDS YOUR AGE DO YOU THINK HAVE EVER TRIED UPPERS OR DOWNERS				
NONE	35	40	43	38
SOME	43	43	41	42
MOST	13	11	9	12
ALL	3	2	2	3
SUBTOT	94	96	96	95

WEEKLY READER DRUGS AND DRINKING SURVEY
WEIGHTED VALUES - GRADES 4-8
BY AREA

	URBAN	SUBURBAN	RURAL	TOTAL
HOW MANY KIDS YOUR AGE DO YOU THINK HAVE EVER TRIED COCAINE				
NONE	42	49	55	46
SOME	37	36	32	35
MOST	11	8	7	10
ALL	4	3	3	4
SUBTOT	94	96	96	95
HOW MANY KIDS YOUR AGE DO YOU THINK HAVE EVER TRIED PCP OR LSD				
NONE	48	56	61	52
SOME	33	32	27	32
MOST	9	6	5	8
ALL	3	2	2	3
SUBTOT	93	96	95	94

WEEKLY READER DRUGS AND DRINKING SURVEY
WEIGHTED VALUES -- GRADES 4-8
BY REGION

	NEW ENGLAND	MID ATLANTIC	E.N. CENTRAL	W.N. CENTRAL	SOUTH ATLANTIC	E.S. CENTRAL	W.S. CENTRAL	MOUNTAIN	PACIFIC	TOTAL
WHERE HAVE YOU LEARNED THE MOST ABOUT THE DANGERS OF DRUGS AND DRINKING										
FAMILY	39	27	29	28	29	32	29	28	29	29
SCHOOL	21	29	28	31	30	26	27	28	27	28
CHURCH	2	2	2	3	2	3	3	4	2	2
TV/MOVIES	41	30	29	30	27	31	29	28	29	30
OTHER KIDS	10	10	8	7	7	9	8	8	11	9
NOWHERE	7	3	3	3	3	2	3	4	3	3
SUBTOT	119	100	99	101	100	104	99	101	100	101
WHERE HAVE YOU HEARD THE MOST ABOUT THINGS THAT MAKE DRUGS/LIQUOR SEEM LIKE FUN										
FAMILY	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	4	3
SCHOOL	6	5	6	6	6	6	8	7	9	7
MAGAZINES	6	5	5	5	5	7	5	6	7	6
TV/MOVIES	25	25	27	31	29	29	27	26	25	27
OTHER KIDS	39	39	34	33	37	33	36	39	38	37
NOWHERE	20	20	23	23	20	20	20	18	18	21
SUBTOT	98	97	99	101	100	99	98	100	100	99
WHICH OF THESE DO YOU THINK SHOULD BE CALLED DRUGS										
CIGARETTES	16	16	21	22	18	17	19	23	16	18
BEER,WINE/LIQUOR	28	28	32	34	32	34	35	36	32	32
MARIJUANA	86	88	91	92	91	91	89	89	90	90
SUBTOT	130	132	144	147	141	141	143	149	138	140

16.

WEEKLY READER DRUGS AND DRINKING SURVEY
WEIGHTED VALUES - GRADES 4-8
BY REGION

	NEW ENGLAND	MID ATLANTIC	E.N. CENTRAL	W.N. CENTRAL	SOUTH ATLANTIC	E.S. CENTRAL	W.S. CENTRAL	MOUNTAIN	PACIFIC	TOTAL
WHAT IS THE MAIN REASON YOU THINK KIDS MIGHT START TO USE BEER, WINE OR LIQUOR										
FEEL OLDER	21	30	28	27	30	30	27	22	29	28
HAVE A GOOD TIME	22	21	20	21	20	20	21	23	20	20
GET OVER FEELING BAD	8	9	9	9	8	10	9	9	11	9
FIT IN WITH OTHER KIDS	40	35	36	37	35	35	35	38	33	36
SOME OTHER REASON	6	5	6	6	5	4	7	6	6	6
SUBTOT	98	100	98	100	97	99	99	98	99	99
WHAT IS THE MAIN REASON YOU THINK KIDS MIGHT START TO USE MARIJUANA										
FEEL OLDER	13	17	17	18	18	18	17	13	18	17
HAVE A GOOD TIME	21	19	19	19	19	20	20	21	23	20
GET OVER FEELING BAD	12	10	12	12	10	10	11	13	11	11
FIT IN WITH OTHER KIDS	46	45	43	43	46	44	43	42	39	43
SOME OTHER REASON	6	5	7	7	5	6	7	7	7	6
SUBTOT	98	97	97	99	98	97	97	97	98	98
HOW MUCH DO KIDS YOUR AGE PUSH EACH OTHER TO TRY BEER WINE OR LIQUOR										
NONE	51	45	52	52	48	48	46	43	44	48
SOME	35	40	36	38	39	37	38	39	39	38
A LOT	9	10	10	9	12	11	12	12	15	11
SUBTOT	95	96	98	99	99	97	97	95	98	97

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

WEEKLY READER DRUGS AND DRINKING SURVEY
WEIGHTED VALUES - GRADES 4-8
BY REGION

	NEW ENGLAND	MID ATLANTIC	E.N. CENTRAL	W.N. CENTRAL	SOUTH ATLANTIC	E.S. CENTRAL	W.S. CENTRAL	MOUNTAIN	PACIFIC	TOTAL
HOW MUCH DO KIDS YOUR AGE PUSH EACH OTHER TO TRY MARIJUANA										
NONE	57	55	63	67	54	58	55	55	45	56
SOME	25	25	23	22	28	24	25	28	32	26
A LOT	13	15	11	9	15	14	16	12	20	14
SUBTOT	95	95	96	98	97	96	96	95	97	96
HOW MUCH DO KIDS RISK HARMING THEMSELVES IF THEY HAVE ONE DAILY DRINK										
NO RISK	17	20	17	17	17	18	18	17	19	18
SOME RISK	46	50	50	51	49	47	47	45	47	49
GREAT RISK	32	26	31	30	31	33	31	32	30	30
SUBTOT	95	96	98	98	98	98	96	95	96	97
HOW MUCH DO KIDS RISK HARMING THEMSELVES IF THEY SMOKE ONE MARIJUANA JOINT DAILY										
NO RISK	11	14	12	13	13	13	13	11	14	13
SOME RISK	21	21	21	20	19	20	18	22	25	21
GREAT RISK	63	61	64	64	64	62	62	62	58	62
SUBTOT	94	95	97	97	97	95	94	94	97	96
HOW BIG A PROBLEM DO YOU THINK THERE IS WITH DRINKING BEER, WINE OR LIQUOR										
NO PROBLEM	19	16	18	20	18	19	18	15	15	17
NOT MUCH OF A PROBLEM	50	46	49	53	49	48	44	47	46	48
A BIG PROBLEM	27	34	28	26	31	32	34	33	36	32
SUBTOT	96	97	96	98	99	99	96	95	97	97

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

WEEKLY READER DRUGS AND DRINKING SURVEY
WEIGHTED VALUES - GRADES 4-8
BY REGION

	NEW ENGLAND	MID ATLANTIC	E.N. CENTRAL	W.N. CENTRAL	SOUTH ATLANTIC	E.S. CENTRAL	W.S. CENTRAL	MOUNTAIN	PACIFIC	TOTAL
HOW BIG A PROBLEM DO YOU THINK THERE IS WITH DRUGS										
NO PROBLEM	23	20	24	30	21	24	22	17	17	22
NOT MUCH OF A PROBLEM	38	34	39	39	35	36	33	39	32	36
A BIG PROBLEM	35	41	33	28	41	36	40	38	47	38
SUBTOT	96	95	96	97	97	97	95	94	96	96
HOW MANY KIDS YOUR AGE DO YOU THINK HAVE EVER TRIED BEER, WINE OR LIQUOR										
NONE	8	9	10	10	12	13	12	9	11	11
SOME	45	42	45	46	46	45	44	38	44	44
MOST	33	33	35	34	32	32	32	36	35	33
ALL	12	11	9	8	8	8	9	13	8	9
SUBTOT	97	95	98	99	98	98	97	96	98	97
HOW MANY KIDS YOUR AGE DO YOU THINK HAVE EVER TRIED MARIJUANA										
NONE	31	28	32	39	29	34	31	25	23	30
SOME	44	45	50	46	46	45	45	50	44	46
MOST	18	18	13	10	19	15	17	17	26	18
ALL	5	4	2	2	4	4	4	4	5	4
SUBTOT	98	96	98	98	98	98	96	95	99	97
HOW MANY KIDS YOUR AGE DO YOU THINK HAVE EVER TRIED SNIFFING GLUE OR CHEMICALS										
NONE	32	35	33	32	33	34	31	27	28	32
SOME	44	42	45	48	45	42	44	47	47	45
MOST	15	14	14	13	15	16	15	15	16	15
ALL	5	4	5	5	5	5	5	6	6	5
SUBTOT	95	95	97	98	97	97	96	96	97	96

19.

WEEKLY READER DRUGS AND DRINKING SURVEY
WEIGHTED VALUES - GRADES 4-8
BY REGION

	NEW ENGLAND	MID ATLANTIC	E.N. CENTRAL	W.N. CENTRAL	SOUTH ATLANTIC	E.S. CENTRAL	W.S. CENTRAL	MOUNTAIN	PACIFIC	TOTAL
HOW MANY KIDS YOUR AGE DO YOU THINK HAVE EVER TRIED UPPERS OR DOWNERS										
NONE	37	36	39	45	37	42	39	37	34	38
SOME	44	42	44	40	42	40	41	45	42	42
MOST	11	12	11	9	12	11	11	11	16	12
ALL	2	4	2	2	3	4	3	2	4	3
SUBTOT	95	94	97	96	93	97	94	95	96	95
HOW MANY KIDS YOUR AGE DO YOU THINK HAVE EVER TRIED COCAINE										
NONE	41	46	48	56	44	53	47	46	39	46
SOME	38	35	37	31	36	32	34	36	38	35
MOST	10	10	9	6	9	9	10	8	13	10
ALL	3	4	2	2	4	4	4	3	5	4
SUBTOT	92	94	97	96	93	97	95	94	95	95
HOW MANY KIDS YOUR AGE DO YOU THINK HAVE EVER TRIED PCP OR LSD										
NONE	49	50	53	62	51	59	52	53	45	52
SOME	33	32	32	27	33	28	32	30	33	32
MOST	7	8	7	5	7	7	8	7	11	8
ALL	2	3	2	2	2	3	3	2	5	3
SUBTOT	92	93	96	96	93	97	95	92	94	94

BEST COPY AVAILABLE